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## **Consumer protection legislation heads to governor's desk**

LANSING - Legislation that would crack down on scam artists who prey on vulnerable citizens is headed to the governor's desk, announced Sen. Alan Cropsey, sponsor of the bill.

State law says a person can be prosecuted for using a false pretense to commit a crime, but not if the scam is to con people out of money while promising to do future work.

"Many criminals have figured out and started exploiting this loophole in Michigan law," said Cropsey, R-DeWitt. "This bill will close that loophole so people can be better protected against criminals using false pretenses to commit crimes."

Cropsey said many intended false-pretense cases involve senior citizens. Often, a criminal will approach an elderly person and offer to do work on the victim's home in exchange for a small down payment. The criminal then never shows back up to complete the work, scamming the victim out of money or other property.

Senate Bill 1009 received strong bipartisan support, passing unanimously in both chambers of the Legislature.

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